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Web site offers improved Lewis and Clark information

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NEWS RELEASE

Sept.30, 2002

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WEB SITE OFFERS IMPROVED LEWIS AND CLARK INFORMATION

MISSOULA—

Nearly 200 years ago the fledgling United States launched its first official expedition west into the area that would become Montana. With the state now primed to commemorate the 2003-06 bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition, one of the best places to learn more about the historic travelers is the "Discovering Lewis and Clark" Web site, located online at <http://www.lewis-clark.org>.

Designers periodically add interpretive episodes to the site that delve into some aspect of the expedition. They recently have done editorial cleanup to some of the older episodes, and they invite Web surfers to click on "New in September 2002" and visit the updated pages on "The American Bison" and "Nathaniel Pryor's Mission." Pryor was an army sergeant in the Corps of Discovery who led side expeditions from the main Lewis and Clark trek.

Joe Mussulman, a former University of Montana professor, leads a team that designs "Discovering Lewis and Clark," which now includes more than 1,200 pages and gets 27,000 hits a day. Mussulman said the site has been described by historians as the best source of Lewis and Clark information on the Internet.

The Web site went online in 1997 and is funded by a nonprofit corporation Mussulman created called VIAs. Look for new episodes at the site for several years to come. Fiscal management of the site is provided by the Bookstore at UM.

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